

To: Mears, Mary[Mears.Mary@epa.gov]; Romanowski, Larisa[Romanowski.Larisa@epa.gov]
Cc: Enck, Judith[Enck.Judith@epa.gov]
From: Yonkunas, Rachel
Sent: Tue 2/2/2016 12:59:40 PM
Subject: Re: Hoosick Falls

Hi Mary,

I wanted to follow up with you from last week. I'm looking to do an update interview with the EPA concerning the Hoosick Falls water contamination.

Is someone around today who can speak with me?

Thank you!

Rachel Yonkunas
Reporter
WTEN/WXXA
NEWS10 ABC/ FOX 23 NEWS
cell: 518-312-0542
email: ryonkunas@news10.com

On Feb 1, 2016, at 3:18 PM, Yonkunas, Rachel <RYonkunas@news10.com> wrote:

Hi Mary,

Thank you for following up with me with his information.

Yes, I believe you're right. Hoosick Falls confirmed positive test results in October 2014 after a resident came forward.

Can we schedule a follow up interview tomorrow? A quick overview of what's happened, and what's to come.

Thank you for your help!

Best,

Rachel Yonkunas
Reporter
WTEN/WXXA
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On Feb 1, 2016, at 8:55 AM, Mears, Mary <Mears.Mary@epa.gov> wrote:

Hi Rachel,

Hope you had a good weekend.

Just following up from last week.

Hoosick was NOT one of the systems serving fewer than 10,000 people randomly selected to test under the UCMR3. Under this UCMR3, ALL systems that serve more than 10,000 people had to sample and 800 smaller systems were randomly selected across the country, including two in Rennsselaer County – City of Troy and Greenbush. Neither system had detects for PFOA.

The UCMR3 is looking at much more than PFCs (of which PFOA is one), it is looking at 28 chemicals and 2 viruses. Here's the complete list:
<http://www.epa.gov/dwucmr/third-unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule>.

Hoosick tested I believe in response to community members who did some of their own testing, but you would have to get in touch with the water system folks to confirm that.

Mary Mears

Deputy Director Public Affairs and Chief Public Outreach Branch

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From: Yonkunas, Rachel [<mailto:RYonkunas@news10.com>]
Sent: Friday, January 29, 2016 5:45 PM
To: Mears, Mary <Mears.Mary@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Hoosick Falls

Yes, Hoosick was tested?

Thank you so much for all of the effort !

Rachel Yonkunas

Reporter

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On Jan 29, 2016, at 5:40 PM, Mears, Mary <Mears.Mary@epa.gov> wrote:

My computer keep crashing, so I think I have to give up. Yes, we will circle back.

Mary Mears

Deputy Director Public Affairs and Chief Public Outreach Branch

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From: Yonkunas, Rachel [<mailto:RYonkunas@news10.com>]
Sent: Friday, January 29, 2016 5:34 PM
To: Mears, Mary <Mears.Mary@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Hoosick Falls

Oh darn! Zip files can be troubling. I really appreciate you trying and would love to follow up with you on this next week.

Just to clarify, it was Hoosick?

Sorry to be a bother!

Rachel Yonkunas

Reporter

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On Jan 29, 2016, at 5:28 PM, Mears, Mary <Mears.Mary@epa.gov> wrote:

I don't have the list and unfortunately there is no one here to ask. I can definitely find any answer, but not until Monday. I know the stat files are on the web, but I can't get the files to unzip. So sorry, Rachel. I know it was Hoosick and it does seem to indicate that no PFOA was detected in which ever system it was.

Mary Mears

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From: Yonkunas, Rachel [<mailto:RYonkunas@news10.com>]

Sent: Friday, January 29, 2016 4:59 PM

To: Mears, Mary <Mears.Mary@epa.gov>

Subject: Re: Hoosick Falls

Thank you very much, Mary. Do you have the list of the 800 systems that were selected? Rensselaer County was on the map as a "tested" site, so does it go by county?

Rachel Yonkunas

Reporter

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On Jan 29, 2016, at 4:51 PM, Mears, Mary <Mears.Mary@epa.gov> wrote:

This is a lot and I honestly don't think I can get with my experts to answer all of this today. I did my best to provide some info below, but some of this I would have to research more for you and am happy to next week. So sorry, but this is pretty involved. Manufacturers were part of our PFOA stewardship program that just came to conclusion. <http://www.epa.gov/assessing-and-managing-chemicals-under-tsca/20102015-pfoa-stewardship-program>

Under the SDWA, EPA can look at no more than 30 emerging

contaminants every 5 years and the UCMR is meant to give us “occurrence” data to assess how broad the problem is. In that effort, EPA requires that all systems serving more than 10,000 sample. We require a sampling of smaller systems like Hoosick and I don’t believe Hoosick was required to sample. Here’s a great map of the sampling so far from EWR, based on the occurrence data from EPA. Any areas of this map of course would be part of the monitoring effort.

http://static.ewg.org/reports/2015/pfoa_drinking_water/interactive_map/index.html?_ga=1.4

Here’s EPA’s data summary for UCMR3:

http://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-11/documents/ucmr3_data_summary.pdf

The third Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR 3) was published on May 2, 2012. UCMR 3 requires monitoring for 30 contaminants (28 chemicals and two viruses) between 2013 and 2015 using analytical methods developed by EPA, consensus organizations or both. This monitoring provides a basis for future regulatory actions to protect public health.

- [Federal Register Notice: Final Revisions to the UCMR 3 for Public Water Systems, May 2, 2012](#)
- [UCMR 3 Basic Information Fact Sheet](#)
- [EPA Approved Laboratories for UCMR 3](#)

UCMR 3 analytical methods and contaminants

- [Assessment monitoring \(List 1 contaminants\)](#)
- [Screening survey \(List 2 contaminants\)](#)
- [Pre-screen testing \(List 3 contaminants\)](#)
- [Notes](#)

Assessment Monitoring (List 1 contaminants)

All PWSs serving more than 10,000 people and 800 representative PWSs serving 10,000 or fewer people monitor for 21 List 1 contaminants during a 12-month period from January 2013 through December 2015.

Mary Mears

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From: Yonkunas, Rachel [<mailto:RYonkunas@news10.com>]

Sent: Friday, January 29, 2016 3:55 PM

To: Mears, Mary <Mears.Mary@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: Hoosick Falls

Hi Mary,

Thank you for getting back to me. Here are some of my questions:

The EPA has said it cannot regulate PFOA because the Safe Drinking Water Act only allows the agency to regulate chemicals "widely found" in public water systems. But in 2009, the EPA added PFOA to the Contaminant Candidate List 3, due to its "known occurrence in drinking water supplies and systems and its potential adverse health affects." Were manufacturers and towns made aware of this? Why or why not? Does adding a chemical to the Contaminant Candidate List come with any requirements or advisories for towns and manufacturers?

Furthermore, in 2012 the EPA added PFOA to the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Regulation (UCMR3). To my

understanding, this required monitoring and testing for PFOA between 2013 and 2015. Did Saint-Gobain and the Town/Village of Hoosick Falls test for PFOA, starting in 2013? Why or why not? Is there a list of areas that were notified by the state or EPA to monitor for PFOA?

Thank you so much for the help Mary! My deadline is 10pm tonight. Feel free to call my cell if you have any questions.

Best,

Rachel Yonkunas

Reporter

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From: Mears, Mary [<mailto:Mears.Mary@epa.gov>]

Sent: Friday, January 29, 2016 3:40 PM

To: Yonkunas, Rachel

Subject: RE: Hoosick Falls

Hi Rachel,

We definitely don't have any available for an interview, but if you send me your questions I will do my best to answer them. Sorry to respond so late.

Mary Mears

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From: Yonkunas, Rachel [<mailto:RYonkunas@news10.com>]
Sent: Friday, January 29, 2016 1:40 PM
To: Mears, Mary <Mears.Mary@epa.gov>
Subject: Hoosick Falls

Hi Mary,

Judith suggested I reach out to you concerning an interview update about the PFOA in Hoosick Falls. I also have a few other questions on the EPA's Contaminant Candidate List 3 and the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Regulation (UCMR3).

Please give me a call or email to further discuss details. I appreciate your help.

Best,

Rachel Yonkunas

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